

Queen's Garden Worksheet

1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

The primary character is the narrator, Brenda Wong Aoki, from San Francisco, affectionately called "West Side," who tells a love story between herself and Kali, Aunti Mary's son. Kali is a dashing Hawai'in daredevil, and his mother is Aunti Mary who took care of every children in the neighborhood and is proud of her heritage. Smoke is Kali's best friend who betrays him later in life and married Sherry, Brenda's F.O.B classmate. This is dated from mid-1960s to early 1970s.

2. What is the *intrusion*?

Kali betraying Smoke by selling him out to the DEA.

3. What is the *unique factor*?

Brenda's decision to cut Kali loose out of her life the second time around when she is older.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?

How far can one bloom despite all the adversities surrounding it?

5. Provide an illustration of the *two kinds of exposition* that the play has in it.

Sherry telling Brenda that Smoke and Kali are shooting up the West Side and that Brenda is being "white" by not being concerned about it at all, propelling her to take the next flight to L.A.

Kali selling out Smoke for reasons only known to Kali as to why he would sell out his own brother.

6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

The shoot-out is definitely the most dramatic moment of the play, because three characters of significance die: Kali, Aunti Mary, and Smoke. This is important because the neighborhood loses its "Mama," the one caring woman who made sure everyone felt like they had a home in her house, and Brenda loses her ex-lover and Sherry loses her husband.

7. List some of the *themes* of the play.

Safety vs. Risk

Gentrification

Family ties

Blood of the covenant vs water of the womb

8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

Brenda wants success in her career, family, and love life, but her own expectations prevent her from fully enjoying what she has. Brenda successfully became a teacher like she wanted to, but is quickly unhappy with how it is turning out for her because her students don't love her in the way she expected them to. Brenda's father also lost their family's pharmacy thanks to a corporate chain. Brenda also could not the love life she's wanted, because she expected too much out of Kali that he could not give and broke up with him despite a part of her still wanting him.

Kali wants a life with Brenda and some money, but his soc

9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.

Red roses, surf waves, sunsets, and just the color red in general. The title helps us understand the play by sorta referencing the people as part of this garden of Aunti Mary's. The characters all grow, blooming like flowers do, but the garden has to be maintained or some flowers will die either from lack of care or even choking out other flowers which happened between Smoke and Kali.

10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.

Aunti Mary was everyone's Aunti. Even though her son is Kali, she took care of every child in the neighborhood and was fiercely proud of everyone's heritage, affectionately calling everyone "Islanders!"

Brenda's relationship with her father is stiff and rather traditional for any Asian family. He expects a lot out of her while also making sure she is still fit to be a bride. He wants her to be smart, but not *too* smart that a man won't choose her. She strives to be free of him, especially from his ideals, hence moving out of the city to go to college, but she still cares for him shown when she felt heartache for when the pharmacy had to close down due to a corporate chain.

